Your Lie in April

3

NAOSHI ARAKAWA

四月は君の嘘 3

I met the girl under full-bloomed cherry blossoms, and my fate has begun to change.

新川直司

KCGM 1327

四月は君の嘘

Monthly Shonen Magazine Comics 3

Naoshi Arakawa

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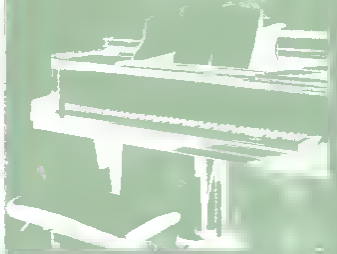

Monthly Shonen Magazine Comics

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Kodansha

KCGM
132

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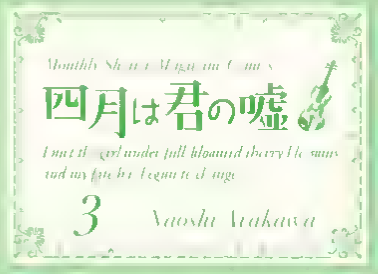
講談社



四月は君の嘘

I met the girl
under full-bloomed cherry blossoms,
and my fate has begun to change

3

新川直司
Naoshi Arakawa

IT WAS SPRING WHEN HE WAS 11 YEARS OLD. ARIMA KOUSEI BECAME UNABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO AFTER HIS MOTHER'S DEATH.

HIS DAYS LOST THEIR COLOR LIKE MONOTONE AS HE SPENT THEM WITHOUT A PARTICULAR GOAL. HOWEVER, DURING SPRING AS A 14 YEAR OLD... A MEETING WITH A GIRL CHANGED HIS DULL DAYS. EXTREMELY VIOLENT WITH A TERRIBLE DISPOSITION, AND YET A VIOLINIST FULL OF INDIVIDUALITY, MIYAZONO KAORI. KOUSEI BECOMES MESMERIZED WITH HER CHEERFUL PERFORMANCE.

KOUSEI, WHO WAS ASKED BY KAORI, AGREED TO BE HER ACCOMPANIST FOR THE 2ND TOUWA COMPETITION PRELIMINARIES. UPON OVERCOMING HIS HANDICAP OF BEING UNABLE TO HEAR SOUNDS, HE DISPLAYED A POWERFUL PERFORMANCE, SHOWERING HIM WITH THE CHEERS OF THE AUDIENCE.

HOWEVER... KAORI COLLAPSES RIGHT AFTER. KOUSEI AND HIS FRIENDS BECAME WORRIED. BUT AFTER KAORI TALKS ABOUT HER HOSPITALIZATION FOR TESTS AND AS A CELEBRATION FOR HER DISCHARGE, SHE ORDERS KOUSEI TO JOIN A PIANO COMPETITION!

STORY & CHARACTERS

Arima Kousei

A FORMER PRODIGY WHO BECAME UNABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO UPON HIS MOTHER'S DEATH. HIS HANDICAP MAKES HIM UNABLE TO HEAR THE SOUNDS WHENEVER HE FOCUSES ON HIS PLAYING.

Miyazono Kaori

A VIOLINIST WITH OVERWHELMING PERSONALITY. SHE PERFORMED WITH KOUSEI IN THE SECOND PRELIMINARIES AND CAPTIVATED THE AUDIENCE.

Sawabe Tsubaki

THE BIG GUN OF THE SOFTBALL CLUB. IS CHILDHOOD FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR TO KOUSEI. SHE RECEIVED A LOVE CONFESSION FROM SAITOU-SENPAI OF THE BASEBALL CLUB WHOM SHE ADMIRED.

Watari Ryouta

HEAD OF THE SOCCER CLUB. FRIENDS WITH KOUSEI AND TSUBAKI FROM A YOUNG AGE. IS POPULAR WITH GIRLS AND HE HIMSELF, LOVES THEM. IS CALLED INSINCERE, BUT SAYS NICE THINGS AT TIMES

contents

Chapter 9: Radio Cassette and the Moon *5*

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Here, use this.
It's a new towel.
Oh, and a change of clothes
I'll put your uniform in the dryer, so...
Go ahead and wear this
Thanks.
Where's everyone else?
Clack
My dad's usually away from home because of work.
Flustered
THERE'S A GIRL IN MY HOUSE...

Chapter 9: Radio Cassette and the Moon
Tap
Tap
It was bigger than I thought
Heh-
AN AURA IS COMING FROM THAT ROOM!
ヒロキーニ
IT'S A WOMAN'S INTUITION!!
23
NUMBER

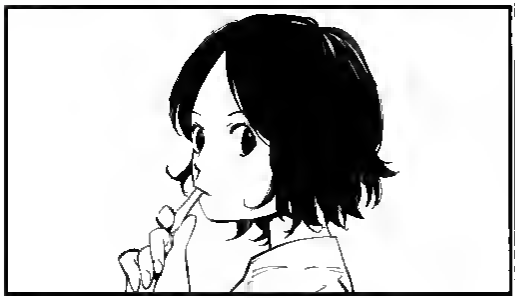
Whirr...
I also have warm milk—
Would coffee be okay?
So this is where you are.
SFX CRASH
KYA!!

fwap
W-W-WHAT ARE YOU...?!
I'm sorry.

I'm sorry.
I'm sorry.

FIRST WE HAVE TO CLEAN!!
VENTILATE!!
A WHOLESOME PERFORMANCE BEGINS WITH A WHOLESOME ENVIRONMENT!

SFX. RATTLE

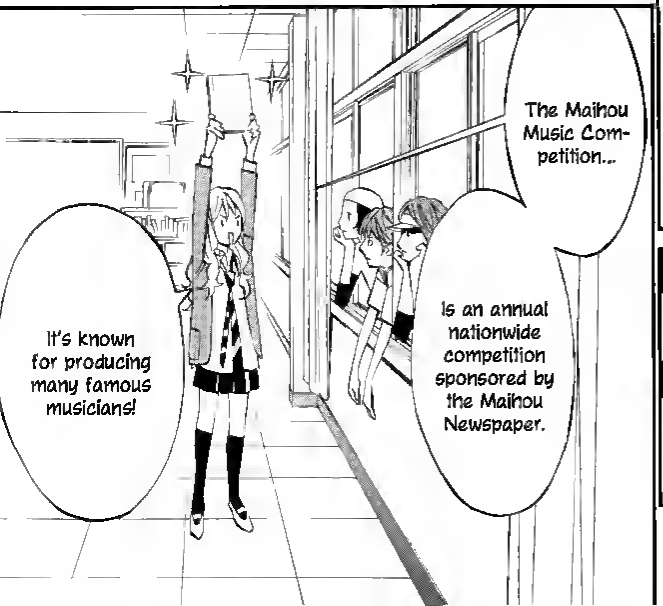


Ice-t
KAO-CHAN?
I'm your new neighbor, Tsubaki-chan!
NO!!
Flustered
WEARING KOUSEI'S CLOTHES?
23
NUMBER
WET HAIR?
THERE'S A REASON FOR THIS...
EHH?!
SFX. RUMBLE RUMBLE
KUA

PING
CRAK!
Tsubaki sure is putting some spirit in it.
She's just raging, isn't she?
SFX: PUSH
...Is better than none.
False courage
Wheeze Wheeze
TIME UNTIL DISTRICTS
3 Days left

I...
Played this?
It's the recording of what you just played.
Yep!!

What kind of competition is it?
Let's give up.
Depressed
I'm entering a competition like this?!
MY WALLET?!
!?
I already sent the documents!
THE PERFORMANCE FEE?!


It's known for producing many famous musicians!
The Maihou Music Competition...
Is an annual nationwide competition sponsored by the Maihou Newspaper.

You played the assigned selection pieces, Bach's Well-tempered Clavier No.15 G Major...
And Chopin's Etude Op. 25-5.
毎報音楽コンクール

WA-TARI!
TSU-BAKI!
KASHI-WAGI-SAN!
GA—N
You suck
You sure suck
KEH.

SFX UWA
NO WAY!
THIS ISN'T ME-
THE TEMPO AND SOUND ARE ALL A MESS!
SFX ROLL

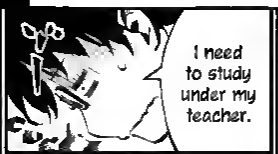
If you progress from the District Preliminaries, final selection to the National Competition...
And win...
It becomes a foot-hold to your entry abroad.

To think—

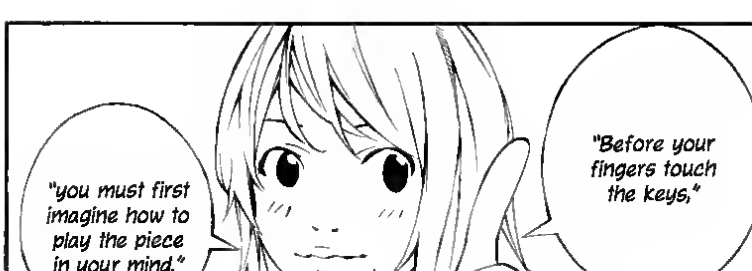
We're all 14 years old.

...sounds like a distant and completely different world from ours

What Kao-chan's talking about..



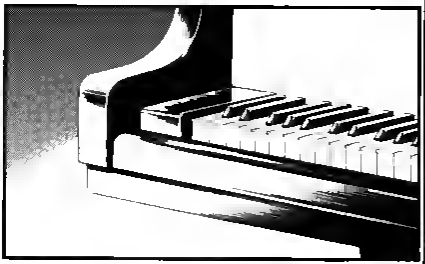
GET READY!
THIS IS A CHALLENGE!
She got away.
Got married and went to Europe!
"It takes courage to sail uncharted oceans."
Even if you can't hear the sounds...
WOOF
SNOOPY.
Dog?
Whose quote is that?
Yeah Yeah
Yeah Yeah
What's important is picturing it.
I can attest to the fact that you can play!



*ANTON RUBINSTEIN (1829-1894) RUSSIAN COMPOSER, PIANIST, CONDUCTOR.

How does your true self...
Want to play Chopin?
Well then, I'll leave it up to you!
OH?!
WATARI-KU—N!
SFX. BOUNCE

I'll go watch Watari-kun's club activities...
So do your best, you two!
11
KYAI
YOU REEK OF SWEAT!
I'LL DO MY BEST!
OUR BREAK'S ABOUT TO END!
DIE!

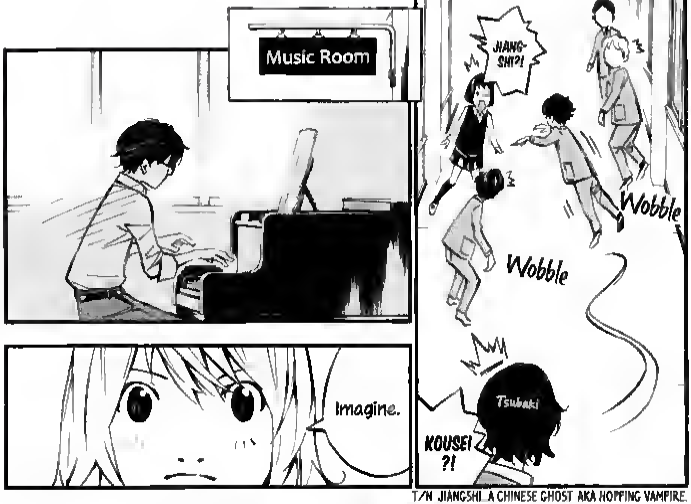


Spaced—out

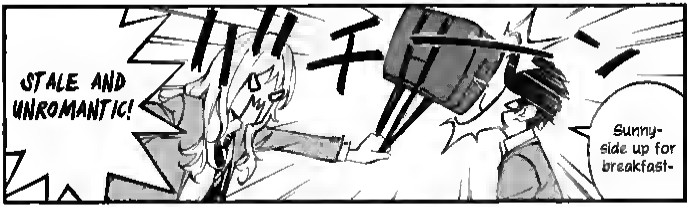
I'm left alone...
with you
again.

SAWABE
Chopin.
This piano is...
Kou-chan?
Yeah.
I see.
So he's started playing.
Shall I go bring him some refresh-ments...?
lala
Yeah.

What're you seeing?
I see a carriage on a stone pavement in Europe—
IMA-GINE.
IMA-GINE.
CLICHÉ!
YOUR IMAGINA-TION IS POOR!
BASH!?



T/N JIANGSHI: A CHINESE GHOST AKA HOPPING VAMPIRE.



Eh?
No way?!
02
He's still playing?
Kou-sei

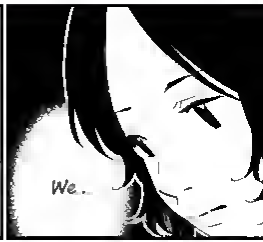
Music Room
IMAGE.
WHAT'S AN IMAGE?
HOW'S IT DIFFERENT FROM AN INTERPRETATION?
HOW DO I...
WANT TO PLAY THIS PIECE?
How do you want to play the piece?
Mm...

SHE'S LIKE AN ANGEL.
Fasa
IF SHE JUST STAYS PUT.
MU
PING
First!
Nice pitch!
Waah

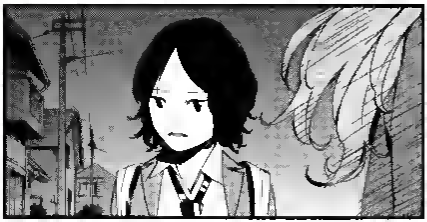
How're the district preparations?
We're ready, but just afraid of getting injured, I guess.
The other day, smoke came out from Anma's head
I think he'll start seeing it soon.
How about you?
Lately all he's been doing is playing the piano.
Enough to make him forget to eat.
He was wobbling down the hallway too.
Aren't you working him a little too hard?
...

I want him to play the piano.
But...
I don't want him to suffer.
Right now—
Arima-kun is turning that suffering into notes.
Ex-posing pain and suffer-ing...
And even your struggles...
By placing them on the strings.
That's how...
You live in the notes.
That's how...
We play notes that come alive.

I'm sure Arima-kun...
Is in the middle of that.


We..

Giving Kousei so much support?
Kao-chan...
Why are you...



How should I explain it...
Hmm..

Whisper
Kousei...
isn't good-for-nothing.

I guess it's because he's like a good-for-nothing younger brother.

Beep Beep
Saitou-senpai
Y-Yo.
I'm on my way home from the club
I don't really need something from you or anything...
I was just wondering what you were doing.
I'm on my way home too
We end up going home around the same time lately, huh?

"We" are...
I'M NOT...
IN THAT "WE."
TO THINK THAT I WAS THE CLOSEST TO HIM...
WHEN WE WERE YOUNG...
BEFORE I KNEW IT...

THE FARTHEST.
I WAS...
Do you want to...
Hm?
Senpai.
Go out with me?

Music Room
KLAK
KLAK

Good job.
FOR WHOM...
HMM...
play the piece?
How do you want to....
I wonder how...
I want to play the piece...
FOR WHAT...
DO I WANT TO PLAY FOR...?
USI
MILK

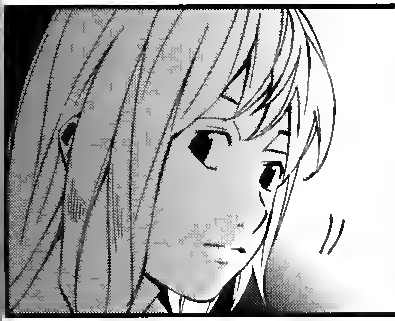
It's already dark outside.
The moon's beautiful.
How about you call it a day?

Thanks.
Sorry, I didn't notice you.
I was listening outside the door. You were concentrating, after all.

Eh?

Do you have something against me?

Hmm...
Just a little more.



Tsubaki-chan told me...
That you were suffering-
I knew...
That too.
That you're suffering.
MILK
You, who became unable to hear notes and abandoned the piano.
You, who based your life on the piano—
I knew from seeing your room.

That's why you couldn't throw it away.
Just like looking away from something you want to see...
You piled it with dust and books.
It's dear to you, but you can't come close!
You long for it, yet you can't touch it.
You were sad..
You were pained.
And yet I pretended not to notice.

"Play the piano."
I'm sorry.
Saying something careless as "Do your best".
I'm sorry.
You're suffering because of me.

You were the one who...
cleared away the dust.
I seem to be suffering...
How troubling
It's obvious I'd be in pain.
I'm travelling an uncharted sea, right?
It's difficult to challenge...
And to create
But it's fulfilling

That's why..
I want to thank you.
I JUST DIDN'T REALIZE IT.
MY WORLD HAS BEEN CHANGING..
SINCE WAY BACK.
For clearing away the dust that piled up on me.
Thank you.

EVER SINCE THAT DAY...
EVEN MY WORLD, WHICH WAS A KEY-BOARD...
BECAME COLOR-FUL.
For meeting me.

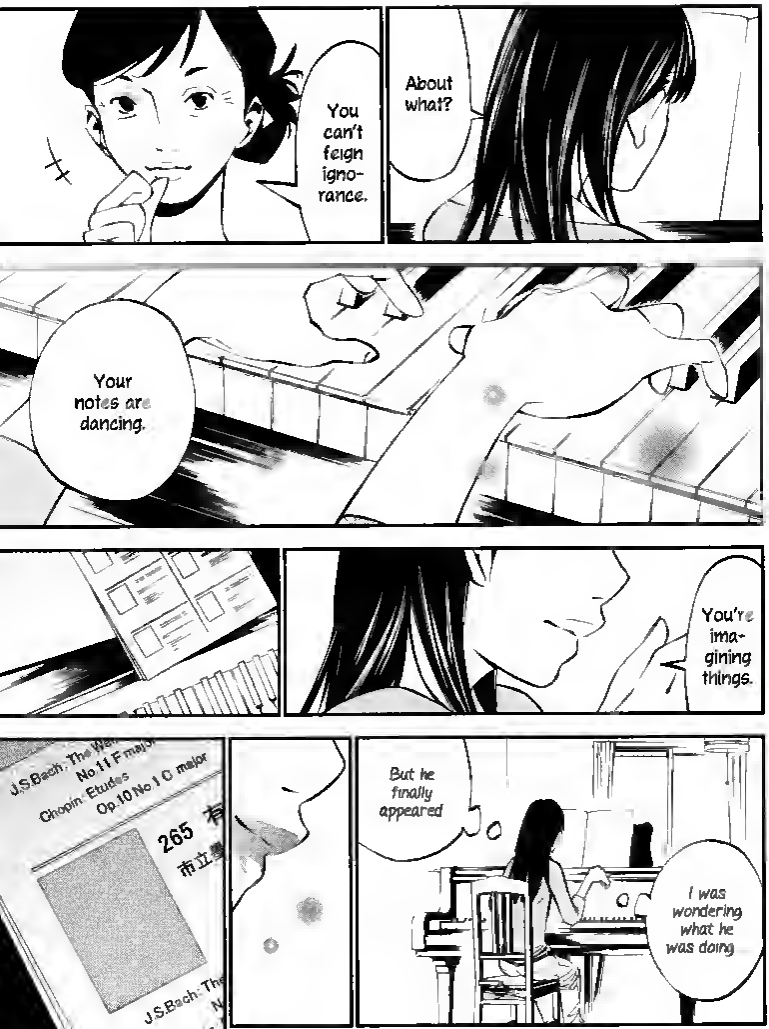
You suck.
CLUMSY BACK-GROUND MUSIC.

AS IF HIDING FROM THE SILVER MOON
TWO PEOPLE IN THE MUSIC ROOM...
THE GIRL MY FRIEND LIKES.

It's as if...
We were the only two people in the world.

Look at the label.
Here's the list of the participants of the Maihou contest.
Good morning.
SFX: PWIP
I've waited these two years...
SFX: RIP
HUH?!
You'll get worked up.
Quiver
Quiver
Quiver

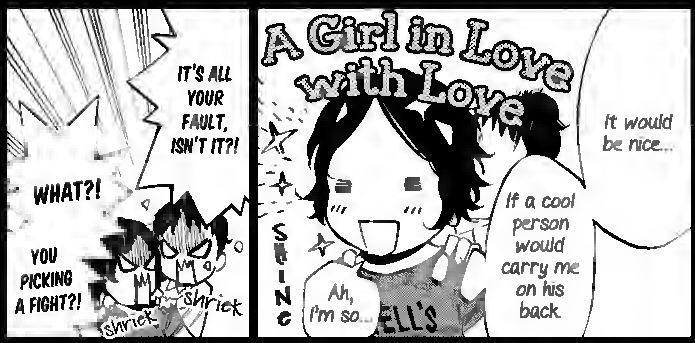
It's about time I clear up.
Those years of shame.
AIZA TAKESHI
It seems you already know.


You can't feign ignorance.
About what?
Your notes are dancing.
You're imagining things.
J.S.Bach: The Well-
No.11 F major
Chopin: Etudes
Op.10 No.1 C major
265
J.S.Bach: The
No
Chopin:
But he finally appeared
I was wondering what he was doing

: The Well temp
No.11 F major B
pin: Etudes
Op.10 No.1 C
This time for sure...
I'll knock you down...
IGAWA EMI
And make a fool out of you.
ARIMA KOUSEI.

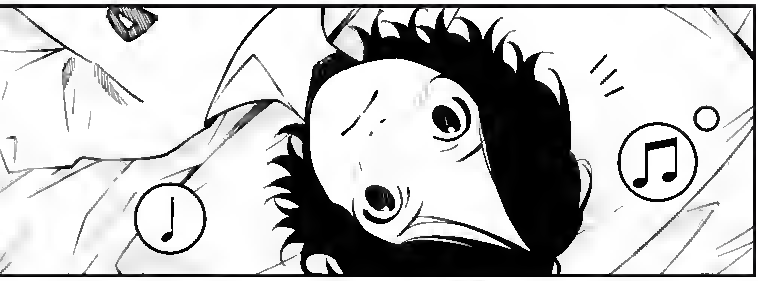
Waah...
Waah...
WAAH...
WAAH...
Hold on, Kousei!
You're a man, aren't you?
Don't cry just because you scraped your knee!
My foot twisted!
You hear that?
TWISTED!
IT STILL HURTS NOW!

Chapter 10 - Way Home



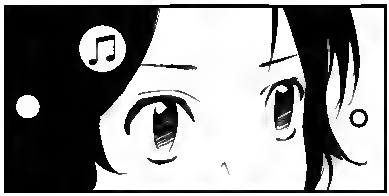
But thank goodness it was only his leg.
Relieved
YOU SAID IT WAS A CARDBOARD SLIDE!
ORAH!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU MADE ME DO A FORWARD ROLL DOWN THE HILL!!
KOU-SEI!
TSUBAKI!
Even so, I'll still get scolded.
I would have ended up being murdered by Kousei's mom.
If I had injured his hands..
SHIVER
UWAA!
WAAH..
Don't cry! Stupid Kousei!
Or else I'll..
WAAH.
WAAH.
Drip
Drip
Ooh...
U...
TSUBAKI'S FOOT SWELLED TO THE SIZE OF A HANDBALL.

You have your play-offs this weekend, right?
I have a game too, so I can't come to cheer you on. Good luck!
YES.
DO YOUR BEST TOO, SENPAI!
Good night!
THE WORLD
PON
WORLD IS MINE
Phew
SFX. FWOP



Still playing.
Kousei's...

FW
THE WORLD IS MINE
OP



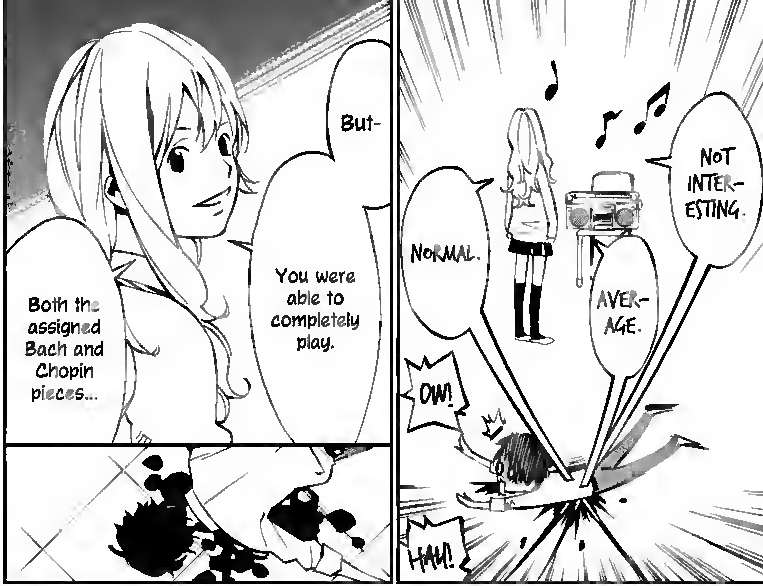
Sumiya
6
The District sports clubs play-off games.
I would like to commence...
Test
Ah-

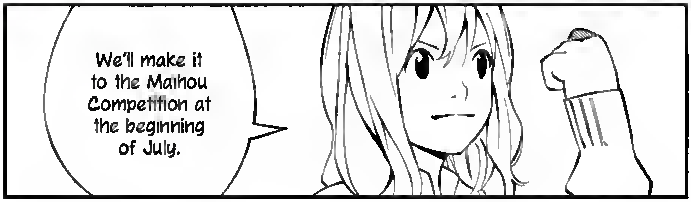
We would like to begin with some encouraging words from our principal.
THE SPORTS CLUBS GAMES ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN.
Ah!
We'll begin with the soccer club's-
放送
*BROADCAST
TSUBAKI AND WATARI ...
THEY'RE ABOUT TO BEGIN THEIR FINAL SUMMER IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
Next, we'll hear some enthusiastic words from each club-
Those born in this era are really lucky!
What's that?
?

He's for real.
WA-TARI-KU—N!
I'M COOL!
LOVE!
A Moron.
Watari's a moron, isn't he?
SO COOL!
Because you were able to see the birth of a star called Watari Ryouta.
Erm... getting back on track, next we have...

Music Room
CLACK
CLACK

GYAAA!
?
What are you doing?
LAME.
OW!


But-
You were able to completely play.
Both the assigned Bach and Chopin pieces...
NOT INTER-ESTING.
NORMAL.
AVER-AGE.
OW!
HM!

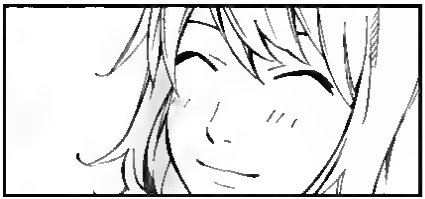

We'll make it to the Maihou Competition at the beginning of July.

Bach and Chopin...
Whisper to me.
Nothing will change...
Even if I'm able to completely play the score.

"Where are you...
Included here?"
Did you go cheer in the Districts?
No.
What club are you in?
The "Going Home" Club.
U~n
I see.
U~n
U~n
I don't want Kousei to suffer.

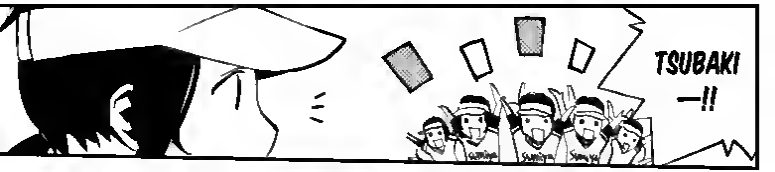
The cultural clubs have to go cheer for the sports clubs and submit an attendance form.
Today and tomorrow.
Let's go for a change of mood.
You'll suffocate if you just stay cooped up here.
I'll pass.
At this rate, there'll be no progress.
I'll...
Surpass perfection.
Just like you—

*MEANS "NO" IN GERMAN



Splendid!
All right!
GREAT CATCH!
NICE SHOT!

Nice one, Tsubaki.
Looks like it'll turn into a one-run game.
The opponent's pitcher is good too.
A riseball from the left.


TSUBAKI —!!

How should I say this—
FO-CUS!

It's so unlike her—

DON'T GET DISTRACTED JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH SAITOU-SENPAI!
BOTH LOVE AND SPORTS ARE GOING WELL?!
I SAW YOU TWO WALKING TOGETHER YESTERDAY!
YOU'RE GOOD AT HANDLING BALLS?
!?

Get at it—
ALL RIGHT!
WE'LL START WITH TSUBAKI IN THIS ROUND!
SHUT UP!
GO— GET INTO IT, TSUBAKI!
Kousei!
Go for it, Tsubaki-
PLAY!

A famous violinist once said...
That music surpasses words.
A RISE-BALL...
IT WENT UP AGAIN...

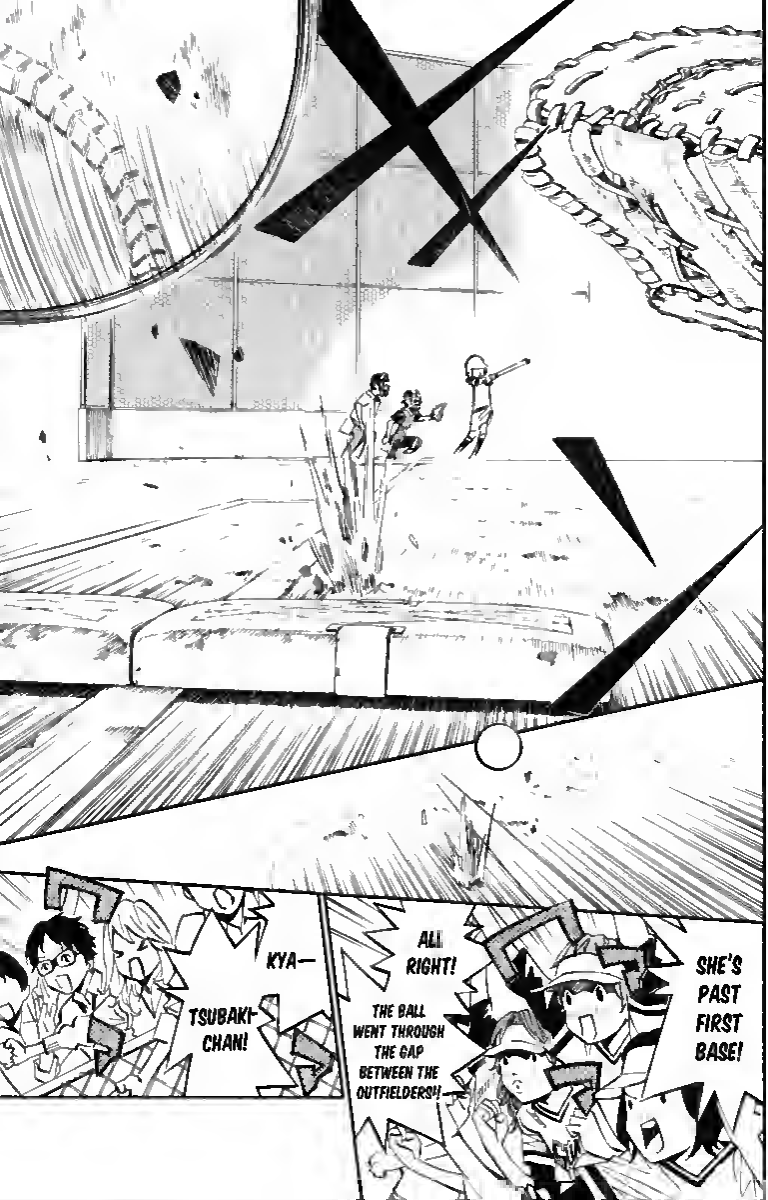
"BY EXCHANGING NOTES."
"UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER."
"IT'S AS IF YOUR SOULS ARE INTERTWINED—"
"YOU LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER."
"LIKE YOUR HEARTS OVERLAP."
GET THAT TRIPLE CROWN—
DON'T LET GO OF THAT WEAK PITCH!
BALL!
"THERE'S A CONVERSATION MADE BETWEEN INSTRUMENTS."
STRIKE-OUT, OOCTOR K!
HIT IT—!!
"A MIRACLE BROUGHT ABOUT BY HARMONY."

MEIB
"In that moment..."
"Music..."
"Surpasses words."

Sunshine Burger
SHINE
-20:00
HINE
BURGER
OPEN
NEW MENU
Then in the end, I brought him home just like that.
Sip Sip Sip
There's not a shred of gentleman in him.
Girls have bigger bodies than boys when they're young.
Making a girl piggyback him...
Don't you think it's terrible?
Chomp Chomp
Chomp
Twitch Twitch
Chomp

THAT'S NOT THE POINT!!
I'M TALKING ABOUT A MAIDEN'S HEART HERE!
Although he's good for nothing...
He's a great pianist.
Just the other day, he received a standing ovation.
Chuckle
What's wrong?
Did I say something funny?
Back then, Kousei was...

You keep talking about the same thing...
BURGER
You always talk about Arima-kun.


SHE'S PAST FIRST BASE!
ALL RIGHT!
THE BALL WENT THROUGH THE GAP BETWEEN THE OUTFIELDERS!!
KYA—
TSUBAKI-CHAN!

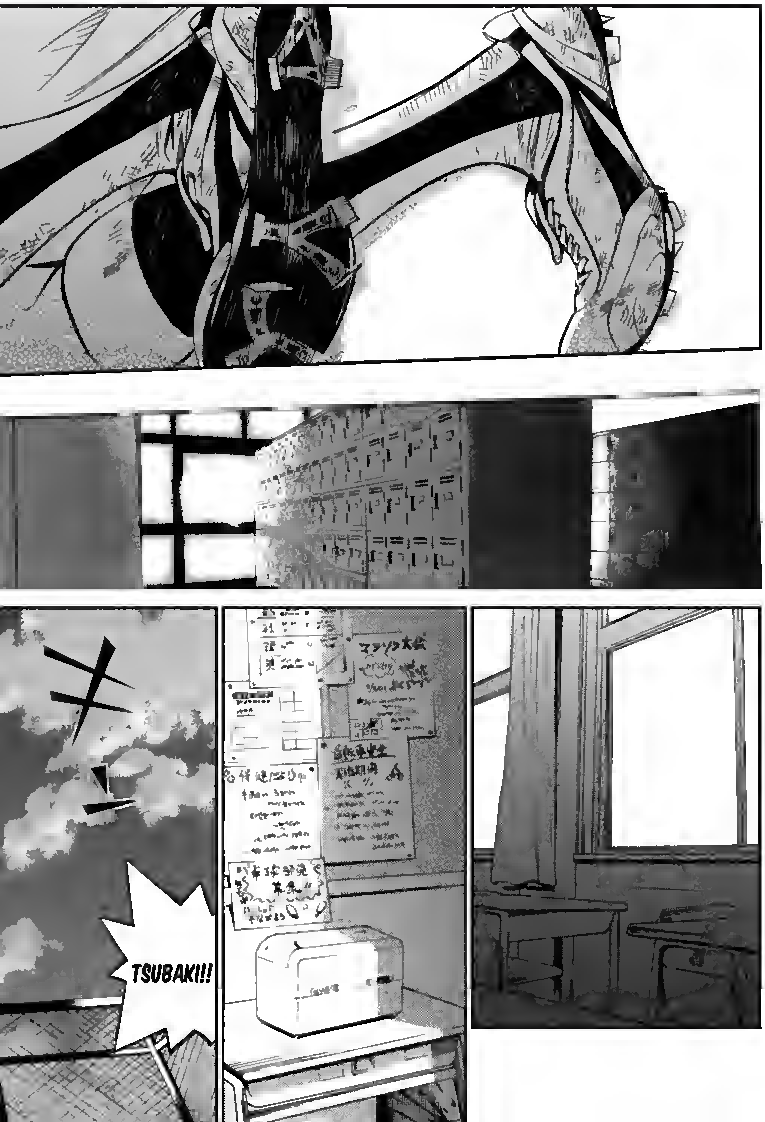
I DON'T WANT THIS.
I DON'T WANT THIS.
I DON'T WANT THIS.
YOU'RE SLOW!!
I KNOW...
RUN— TSUBAKI!!
YOU CAN MAKE IT TO THIRD BASE!
SLIDE
THAT I HAVE NO RIGHT TO THINK LIKE THIS.
BUT...
I DON'T WANT WHAT I DON'T WANT!
I STILL DON'T WANT THIS.

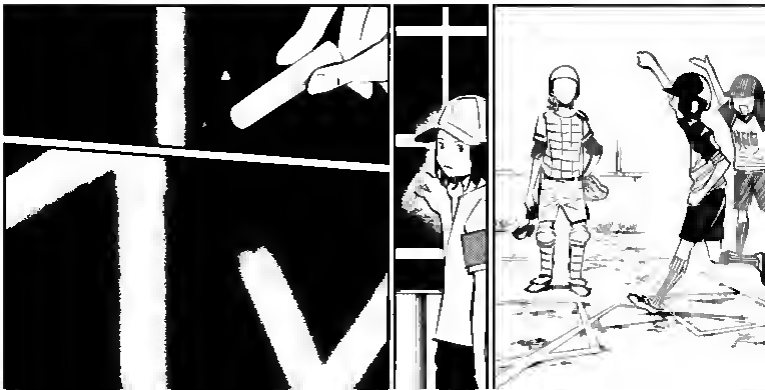
AT HAPPY TIMES...
AND SAD TIMES...
ALWAYS BESIDE EACH OTHER.
ALWAYS TOGETHER...
BUT...
BEFORE I KNEW IT, HE WAS FAR AWAY FROM ME.
TSUBAKI?!
STOP AT THIRD BASE!
STOP!!
Someone else was there.
I wasn't by his side.

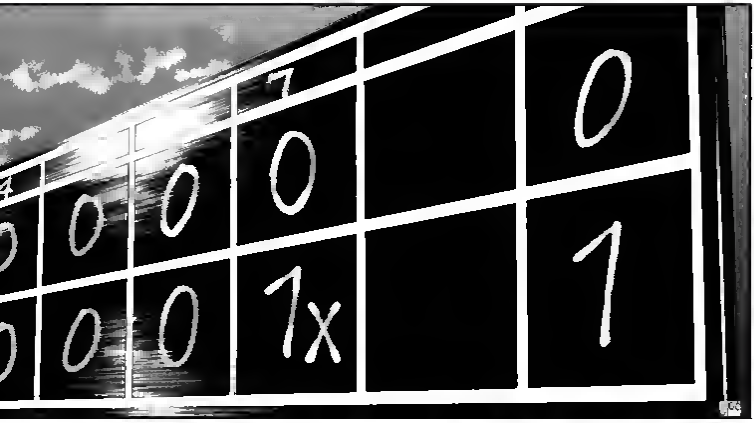
I DON'T WANT THIS.
LOOK AT ME.
LOOK AT ME!

DON'T LOOK AT SOMEONE ELSE...
WITH THOSE EYES!

OUT!!
AHH— WHAT A WASTE...
SO CLOSE—
GWAH!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING, TSUBAKI?!


TSUBAKI!!!

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文
ようボイほて

半

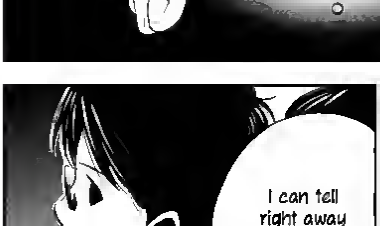
I'll let your boyfriend cheer you up.

Tsubaki...
I'll be heading on home this way.
But it's over here, right, Kashiwagi?

Boy-friend?
Sen.. pai?
Kousei.

I knew it. You injured your foot.
W-W-W-W-W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING-?!
He's going to bind me?!
EH?!
STAY PUT!
I'LL BE GENTLE!
DON'T COME NEAR ME, YOU PERVERT!!
GYAAAAAA-
WHAT'S THAT?
A THIEF?!
Yo.
Yo.

No one's looking.
Kousei, this is embarrassing...


I can tell right away when you're hiding something.

How long do you think we've been together?
But no one even noticed...

Where's... Kao.. chan?
She went home.

And told me to see you alone.
Because you were hiding it...
It swelled this much.
Just like the giant roll incident.
You haven't changed from back when we were kids.
I changed.
My heart often sways a lot.
No way, no way
Everything about you is obvious.
So...
You don't have to hold back anything in front of me.

I've always caused you worry...
So I hope you will let me worry about you too.
I may be an unreliable little brother...
But I'll do my best.
I will...
So...

It's uncool if I always keep getting piggybacked by you.
I want a cheerful Tsubaki to see me like this.
Come to think of it...

You really are a girl!
You're...
WHA...!
Actually lighter than you look.
Maybe it's because the seasons are changing
You're right.
I said something weird.
W-WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?!
WEIRDO!
OWW! DON'T HIT ME!

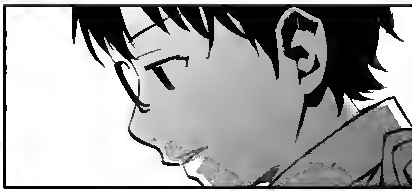
WHAT IS MUSIC?
WHAT ARE WORDS?
AND THERE WERE PLENTY OF INSIGNIFICANT...
BUT PRECIOUS MEMORIES WE SHARED.
WE HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR A LONG, LONG TIME...

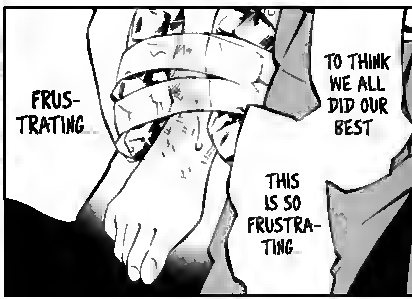
OOH...
OOH.

Next time...
I'll piggy-back you!
HELLO KITTY

WE LOST...
WE LOST BECAUSE OF ME...

WAHH!
MY FOOT HURTS.
WAH!
WE LOST




TO THINK WE ALL DID OUR BEST
FRUS-TRATING
THIS IS SO FRUSTRA-TING

WEIRD.
THOUGH I'M FRUSTRATED WE LOST...
THOUGH I FEEL BLUE...
THOUGH MY FOOT HURTS...
THOUGH MY EYES ARE WET WITH TEARS...
How come the stars...
...are sparkling like this?
Even though this sucks.

I WISH ...
TIME COULD STAND STILL LIKE THIS.
WAH—
DON'T PULL MY HAIR!
WAH—
I'm by his side.
I CAN SMELL THE MUSIC ROOM FROM HIS HAIR.
AND I CAN HEAR...
HIS SLIGHTLY RUGGED BREATHING.
THE TIP OF HIS SHOULDER, WET WITH TEARS, IS WARM.
帰り道／おわり

四月は君の嘘

Creak
Creak
Hey
How are you doing?

It's almost time, huh?
For the competition.
Chapter 11 - Shadow Whispers

Yeah.

Don't be afraid.
Relax. Don't worry about it.
Even if you get humili-ated
It doesn't matter if you get laughed at
It's not as if you've been abandoned
You're not Beethoven, after all

Who are you?
You are neither Bach...
Nor Chopin.
I know.
So...
Hmm?

Are you done preparing for your journey?

Oh...
KYA!
LOVE
Surprise

OUWA
GO FOR IT!!
WATARI!!
DEVILS ?!
DAITO

THEY'RE COMING FROM THE RIGHT!
COVER ME!
HE CROSSED OVER!
GO—
3
10

SO CLOSE—
Suuuya

藤中 1 0
黒谷中 0 0
ピー
THE SOUND OF THE WHISTLE...
DIFFUSED IN THE CLEAR SKY.
11

His disappointed face is lovely too! Watari-kun!
That was so close...
Too bad.
Watari lost too.
Watari—
Kya—
Don't cry.
You did your best, right?
OOH.
C'mon. It's time for hand-shakes.
Thanks for cheering.
You were cool.

I MISSED OUT ON BEING A STAR.

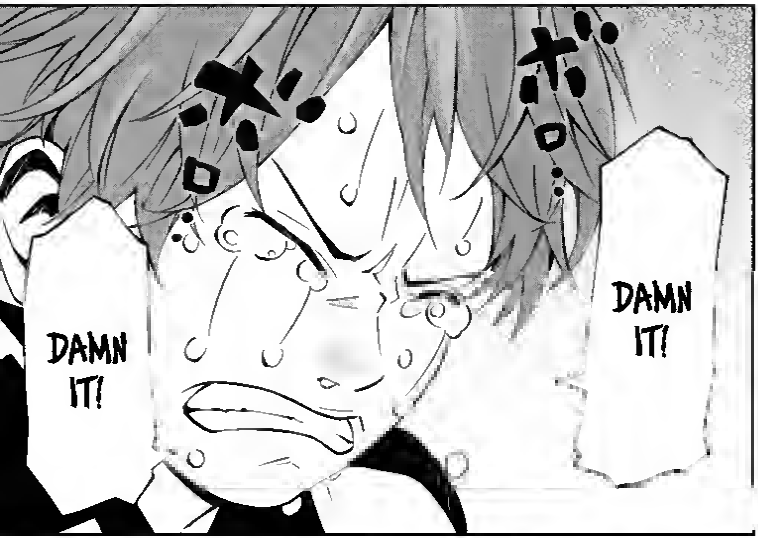
Let's go home—
You were really cool.

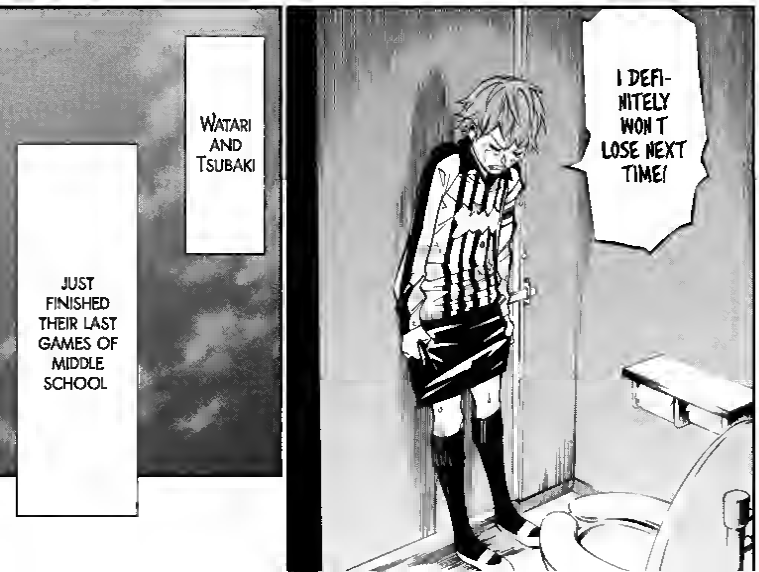
IWATARI—
LET'S DO IT AGAIN IN HIGH SCHOOL.

I'll leave the rest to you.

?

THANKS—
Where's Watari?
He said he's taking a dump.
I won't become a star until high school, huh?
Damn it!


DAMN IT!
DAMN IT!


WATARI AND TSUBAKI
JUST FINISHED THEIR LAST GAMES OF MIDDLE SCHOOL
I DEFINITELY WON'T LOSE NEXT TIME!

THE DAY OF THE MAIHOU COMPETITION IS NEARING.
17
18
24
25
1
2
Maihou Comp
I'VE MANAGED TO PLAY THE ASSIGNED PIECES...
BACH...
AND CHOPIN.
MEMORIZED, WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE SCORE.
BUT...

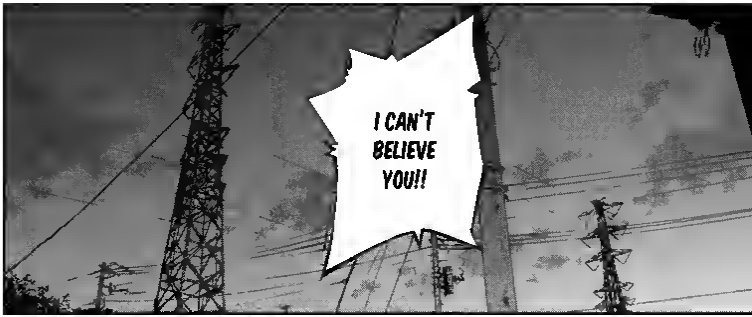
LIBRARY
TA-TAN
TAN
TAN
ARIMA!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS! KEEP IT DOWN!
!!
Tap
Tap
Tap
TATAN
TAN

Hah
Hah
WATARI AND...
THREE MORE LAPS!
TSU-BAKI
WERE SHINING
Awe-inspiring...
Were there.
AND YOU..

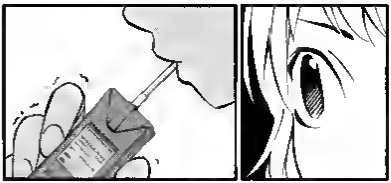
I WONDER IF..
I WAS ABLE TO WHOLLY UNDERSTAND THEM.
I WONDER IF...
I WAS ABLE TO MAKE BACH AND CHOPIN MINE?
Where are you in here?
INSIDE THE MUSIC, INSCRIBED IN THE SCORE
I WONDER IF I'M PRESENT...

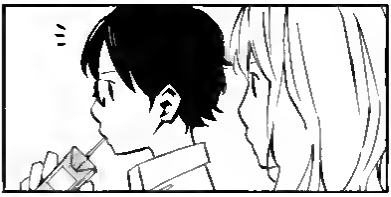
I DON'T KNOW.
I don't know.
I DON'T KNOW.
ARIMA?!
SOMEONE, GET SOME WATER!
CALL THE NURSE!

FRIEND A!
CLINIC
Yesss?!
Yes?
Munch
Munch
?


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!!

I recovered after eating the egg sandwiches Tsubaki gave me
5 packs of them.
5 !?



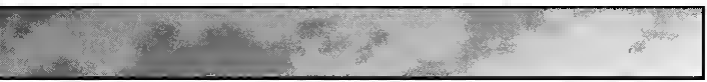


TO THINK YOU'RE COUNTING ON YOUR BODY!
I can't help it. I've been immersing myself.

Kya—
Ahh—
Kitty—
BA-DUMP

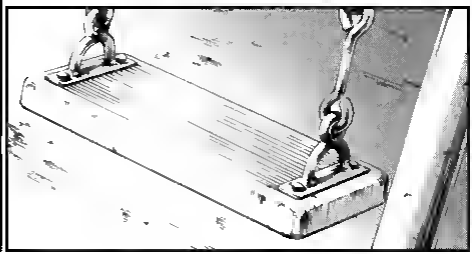
Where are you?
.....
HACK
MILK

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
THERE'S...
A PUBLIC TOILET OVER THERE!!
HRK
COUGH



MINE
WATE
ミネラル ウォ
I raised a black cat...
When I was a kid.

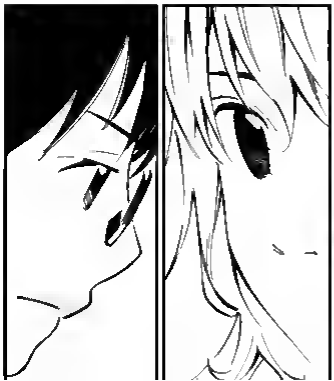
OUNI PARK



I was playing with Chelsea like always.
But then, I'm sure I went too far.

Because she ate my candy whenever I looked away
Her name was Chelsea.
QC NOTE CHELSEA IS A POPULAR JAPANESE BUTTERSCOTCH CANDY

One day, she scratched my hand.

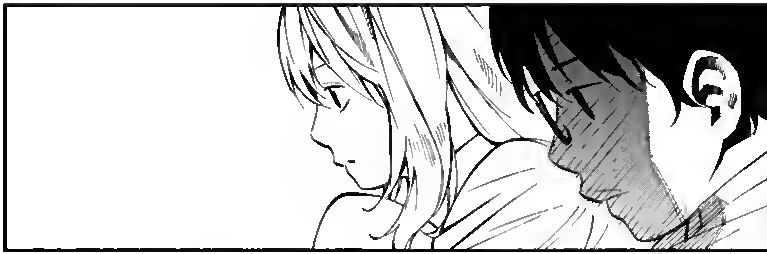


My hand was all red.
The blood kept flowing out and wouldn't stop, so I panicked.

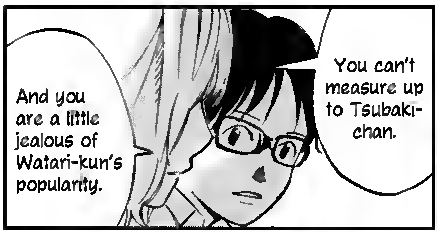
The next day
My mom threw her out
THE SCARS CHELSEA LEFT..
REMIND ME OF MY MOTHER.
TO THINK THIS WOULD BE ONE OF THE FEW MEMORIES.
It's for your own good.

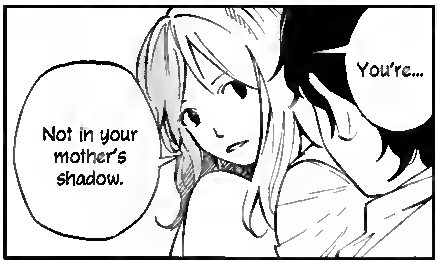
I JUST LOOKED ON SILENTLY...
AT MY MOTHER'S BACK, AS SHE WENT TO THROW CHELSEA OUT
IF I CALLED OUT "STOP!" OR "WAIT!"
THINGS MIGHT HAVE CHANGED.
It's the Arimas again.
He can't do anything without his mother.
His mother's puppet.
Just a robot that does as it's told.
It doesn't have to be him
Everyone's just the same.
Where is he?

EVER SINCE THAT DAY...
I'VE BEEN IN MY MOTHER'S SHADOW.



You like egg sandwiches.


You can't measure up to Tsubaki-chan.
And you are a little jealous of Watari-kun's popularity.


You're...
Not in your mother's shadow.

You like the Moomoo brand of milk too.
Surprisingly, you like sweet things.
You're not good at sports.

You are YOU.
"Just like you", isn't an obscure expression.
What you've done or how you've changed doesn't matter.
You are you all the same.

The great teachers say it a lot, don't they?

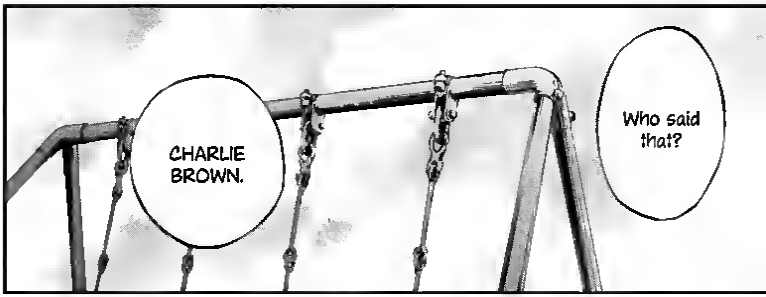
Study "The purpose of the composer",
"The style of the era",
"The Background of the era",
And understand it well

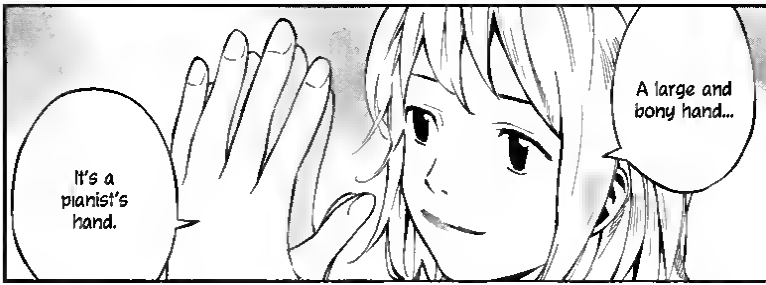
That's important
But don't you think there's a limit?
After all, we weren't born in the Baroque era.
We don't have weird hairstyles.

WE'RE NOT BACH OR CHOPIN.
You should just earn-estly...
Perform with your life...
With all of yourself.

You say really good things...
Some-times.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY SOME-TIMES?!
TO THINK I WAS CHEERING YOU UP!
OW!
OW!
EARN-ESTLY...

"You should rest your cheek on your hand and elbow when you feel gloomy."
"I'm happy when my skills become useful."


Who said that?
CHARLIE BROWN.


A large and bony hand...
It's a pianist's hand.

Your hand is happy to have touched me.
WHA?!

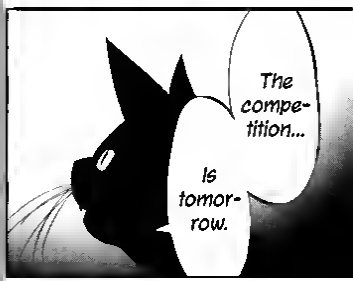
See? I knew it.
?

It's itching to play the piano.
I WORRIED OVER IT.
GOT CONFUSED.
AND FELT PAINED
AND THE ANSWER I ARRIVED AT WAS SO SIMPLE.
IT WOULD MAKE YOU LAUGH.

How are you doing?
Hey.

Yeah.
You still can't hear the notes, right.

So-so, I guess.


The competition...
Is tomorrow.

To the point that it's ridiculous.
Who seriously believes in the power of music.
There's a girl.
But you know,
Will you be okay?
I wonder.
So,
I thought I'd try believing in it too.

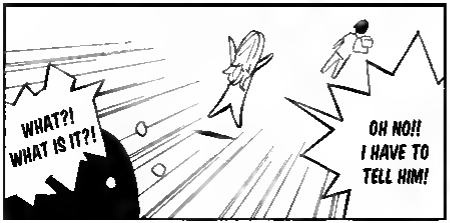
You're right.
That's not answering my question
It seems you're done preparing.
Yeah.
I'm sure that person will come too.
Tomorrow will be a hectic day
Take it easy and rest today
You should just...

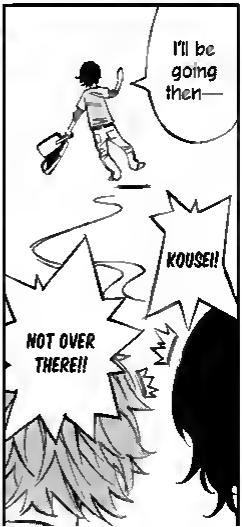
KYA—
HOW LONG WILL YOU SLEEP?!
YOUR HAIR IS A MESS!
NO LIFE IS ENOUGH
The black cat told me to rest.
WE'RE LEAVING, UNCLE!
Take care!
DID YOU BRING YOUR SUIT? HOW ABOUT THE SHOES?!
WE'RE STILL OKAY!
I brought it!
WERE YOU ALWAYS LIKE THAT?

Whoa!

What a huge place...
It's being held here?

OH!!
I wonder if he'll be okay.


WHAT?! WHAT IS IT?!
OH NO!! I HAVE TO TELL HIM!

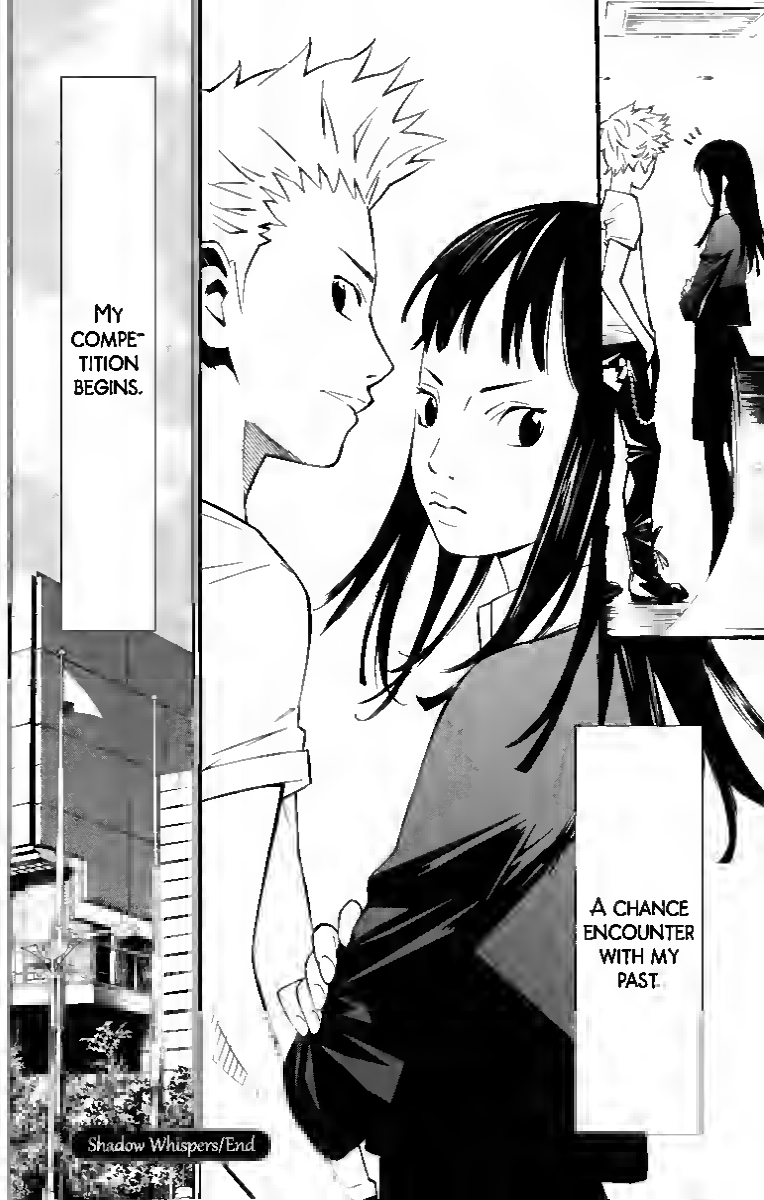

I'll be going then—
KOUSEI!!
NOT OVER THERE!!

OWW..
WHAT IS IT?!
Look at this.
NOT THAT.
The participant's list?
Your entry number.
14
265 Arima Kouse
Sumitani Municipa
Middle School
J.S.Bach: The Well
No.15 G major

Köchel number 265.
Mozart's "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."
⑬ 241
Satou Ryouka
Katsurazuka Prefectural Middle School
J S Bach The Well-tempered clavichord No 11 F major BWV 856
Chopin Etudes Op.10 No 1 C major
The stars are shining over you.

* KÖCHEL NUMBER...CHRONOLOGICAL NUMBERING OF MOZART'S PIECES.

Ahaha!
THE DAYLIGHT STAR.
Admin Office
Backstage Entrance


MY COMPE-TITION BEGINS.
A CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH MY PAST.

Music Competition Finalists
All right!
My name is here!
I feel bad, but they were incredible.
My child didn't make it again
To think that I was doing so well—
Let's take a picture.
GAH— MY NAME'S NOT THERE!
We'll be 6th graders next year, so let's do our best!
We really can't make it with those two there.
Igawa Emi-chan and...
Aizawa Takeshi -kun.

They stand out from the pack, a cut above the rest.
It's easy to see how much they'd practiced.
And the fruits of their labors were beautifully displayed
And yet,
It's a real shame...
第1位 有馬公生
第2位 井川絵
3位 相座武士
Because it just makes Arima-kun stand out that much more.

They're Arima's backups again.
THAT ARIMA TICKS ME OFF!
Because you lost again?
NOT THAT! IT'S BECAUSE HE'S NOW THE FAVORITE TO WIN THE FINALS!
And besides...
That bastard...
...

He went home without even looking at the results,
As if it was already obvious that he'd won.
HAH!
Why doesn't he try to be even a little happy about it?!
That, by itself, ticks me off!
So which is it?
And perhaps...
He's not interested ...
in other people... or in us.
Maybe even in himself--

It's the first time
I've been humiliated like this.
Cool?
You sure seem cool with this
If he's not interested in us...
Then I'll force him to look at us.
I'll make him curious.
Someday...
Surely.

Chapter 12: Mirage
We will ...
Defeat you.

Is that ?
Yeah.
-Arima-
NO LIFE IS
...
It's been a while.. Arima.
Um...
He's matured a little.
But he hasn't changed.
His annoying black-framed glasses,
Haven't changed.
S-DMP
S-DMP
S-DMP

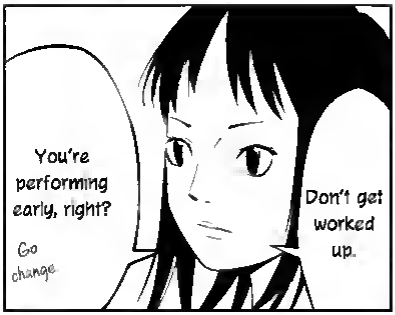
Who are you, again?
There aren't that many people watching.
Arima-kun's playing?
Didn't he quit?
What's his piece?
This must be Arima-kun's influence.
They'll be flocking in after the preliminaries
That can't be!

When I went to the bathroom,
They were all talking about Kousei.
He's incredible
NOD NOD
But you know
It's a bit strange
Why do you look so sure of yourself?
Will he show off his brilliant techniques again?
Perfetly following the score, just like his mother taught him.
His secret technique, the Marionette style.
Do they hate Kousei?
Playing according to the score...
Playing it as the composer intended it to be played...
It's a good thing

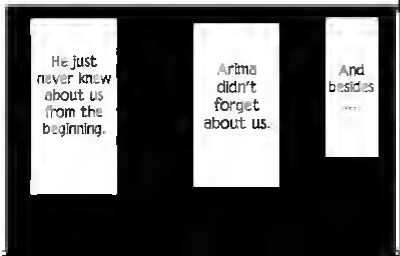
Although there aren't many other ways
to judge the players in a competition,
If you only win...
because you played faithfully to the score,
And get recognized because of that...
Of course, there are those jealous people...
You wouldn't feel good about it.
The young generation...
that looks for something in music—
Especially—
Arima-kun went around winning competitions, after all.
AH!
There was a time when he participated in a lot of competitions!
If I'm not mistaken, it was around the time his mother was hospitalized.

"Just like a digital clock..."
"Not missing a beat."
"There are no echoes."
Human metronome
Competition specs
His mother's puppet
Slave to the score
The name "Arima Kousei"...
Is notorious.
What's that?! Bring it on!
IS IT YOU?!
SHH!
SHH!
Who said that?! I'll send them flying!

U R A A H !

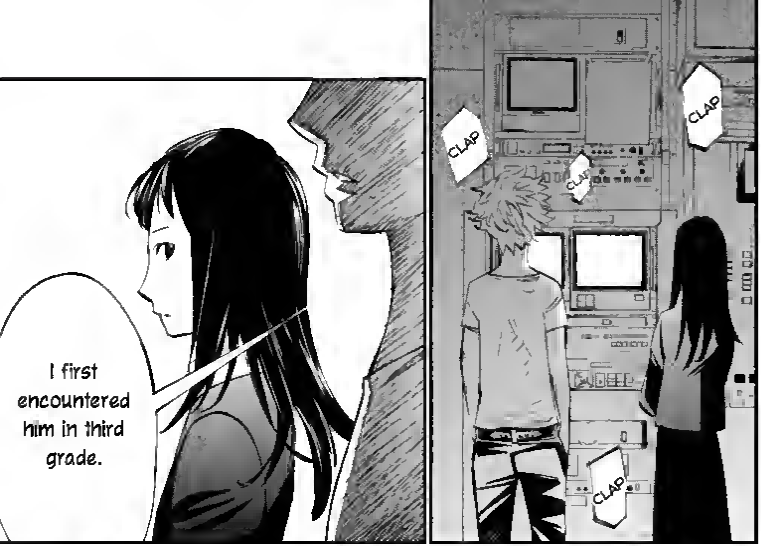

You're performing early, right?
Don't get worked up.
Go change

How dare he forget about us!!
That Arima bastard!
Calm down, Takeshi
There, there


He just never knew about us from the beginning.
Arima didn't forget about us.
And besides ....

I don't like that.
To think that he has all of that skill,
Yet he plays such boring music.
Just because his mother was a maestro's pupil...
He's treated so well.
BZZZT!
People's personalities don't change a lot in two years.
He hasn't changed at all....
Since 2 years ago.

1
We shall now...
HEAVEN 2 HELL
Commence the judging.


I first encountered him in third grade.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

I stretched my hands out...
And right when I thought I'd caught him
I told myself, "Next time... next time for sure..."

Like a mirage.
He faded into the distance...
He disappeared in a flash,
just like those pigeons in magic tricks.
Today...
He finally returned to where he should be.

b-dmp
b-dmp
b-dmp
For two years, I've waited for this day.
Finally–

The competition begins.
1

scratch
scratch
Stretch

I hate judging, 'cause it's so tiring.
Phew
Screening Committee Head Ibata Junsou
scratch
scratch
scratch
scratch
I'm so cool...
Again?!
How disgusting!
Ehh?!
He's already asleep!
2

Number 3...
Kawabata Yuuko-san, please get ready.
mumble
mumble
mumble
PSHH
PSHH
UGH...
TOILET
EUH...

GRIP
Number 4.
Aiza-kun
Please get ready.
It's al-right.
You can do this.
You can play!
b-dmp
b-dmp
b-dmp

I'm scared.
I'm scared.
I'm scared.
Why won't he play?
It's over.
Ahh...
Chuckle
That's one off the list.
He dug his own grave
Chuckle
Did he forget how to play?
Chuckle
Chuckle
Creak...
My heart pounds.
B-thud.
Like a broken see-saw
B-DMP
B-DMP
B-DMP
How strange...
Maybe because it's been two years,
It's the first time I've felt like this.

I'm scared.
I'm scared.
I'm scared.
I'm scared.
I'm scared.
I'm scared.
I'm scared.
TOP
TOP
TOP
TOP
TOP
TOP

Everyone...
is scared.

Because we were inspired by something.
We perform...
Did the mood just change?
You could say that.
A likely winner's just arrived.
You might screw up or get rejected.
Standing on the stage.
It's scary...
Everyone's afraid...
Of going onstage.
And yet we grit our teeth and go onstage

Last year's champion...
Aiza Takeshi.
Here he is.
I can finally listen to the real thing.
CREAK
And Chopin's Etude.
CREAK
CREAK
Op. 10-4.
His two selection pieces are...
Chopin's Etude.
Op. 10
Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier Book 1 No. 13...

That's a nice expression.
Don't get worked up, Takeshi.

Takeshi...
You received an invitation to the Schubertstein competition.
It's in Germany.
It's on the same date as the Maihou competition...
Let's cancel the Maihou one.
But you can finally debut abroad.
I'll join the Maihou Music Competition.
I...
Won't go to Germany
Takeyanagi-sensei.
Hm?

EVEN CHOPIN HAD TO GO ABROAD AND SELL HIMSELF IN COMPETITIONS!
HOW COME?! THEY'VE INVITED YOU!
IT'S A RARE AND LUCRATIVE DEAL!
...H...
There is.
There's no reason to prioritize joining it!
And besides...
Didn't you win the Maihou Competition last year?

Mm...
ALL RIGHT!!

Tsk!
Not as much as me, though.
Cool, isn't he?
A splendid intro!
Is that the same piano?
He's completely different from the others.
The piano resounds—
So this is Aizu's Bach.
A proper interpretation.
A steady touch that doesn't match his looks...
And the fugue...
A cheerful prelude.

SHUDDER
The song changed–
As if he dislikes silence...
He switched right into the etude.
It also felt like Bach...
His sincere stance in facing music.
His reverent approach.
His unyielding determination.

This is...
Aiza's Chopin.
A sturdy trunk...
Rising from the roots.

She's listening to another player's performance...
It's the first time I've seen someone like her...
What a fearless girl.
Uwaa...
scratch
Takeshi.
Arima.
Listening to other's performances—
DMD-8
DMD-8
DMD-8
NO
ENOUGH

Are you listening?
(8-DMP
Are you watch-ing?
(8-DMP
Arima.

Might join the Maihou Competition.
Arima Kousei...
Takeshi...
He might show up.
You've been waiting for a long time.
But he hasn't showed his face in 2 years
There are also rumors that he's gone deaf
My goal isn't...
To go abroad...
Or to join Chopin competitions.

My goal is Arima Kousei.
To join a competition with him in it.

The reason I did my best these past two years...
Was because I believed you'd come back.
Was I...
Able to catch up to you?
Or did I wander away instead?
Will you let me chase you...
Like a mirage again?

Will you retain my admiration?
Answer me.
Show me.
Come, now.

It's your turn next–
Arima...
Kousei.

四月は君の嘘　挿入曲

ヨハン・セバスティアン・バッハ《平均律クラヴィア曲集》& ショパン《エチュード》

《平均律》は音楽の父といわれるバッハが、自分の息子や弟子の勉強のために作った曲集です。それぞれプレリュードとフーガという小さな２つの曲で出来た、すべての長・短調を巡る24曲の曲集を２巻作曲しています。

ショパンの《エチュード》は、バッハの《平均律》に倣って作られた、24曲からなる練習曲集です。ピアノの詩人・ショパンならではの美しいメロディーやハーモニーに溢れた作品が多く、『別れの曲』『黒鍵』『革命』などの名曲が含まれています。

いずれもピアニストを目指す若者が避けて通ることのできない作品で、学生コンクールから国際コンクールにまで、幅広いレベルの大会で必修課題となっています。

ヨハン・セバスティアン・バッハ　《平均律クラヴィア曲集》第１巻第13番　嬰ヘ長調　BWV858

シンプルな２つの旋律で奏でられるプレリュードは、12/16拍子という少し珍しい拍子で作曲されています。安定感のある4拍子に、軽いスイングを感じさせる3拍子が複合されており、長調の響きと相まって、ゆったりとした暖かい雰囲気が印象的です。

つづくフーガは、３つの旋律が絡み合いながら進行します。左右２つの手で、３つの旋律を奏でるために、片手で独立した複数の旋律を演奏しなければならないところが、フーガの演奏の難しいところです。また、限られた音型を繰り返しながら、朗々と歌い上げる部分や、哀愁を感じさせる部分など、めくるめく曲の展開を構築していくことが、演奏上重要なポイントになる作品です。

（ピアニスト／菅野雅紀　東京藝術大学・武蔵野音楽大学講師）

次ページへつづく

四月は君の嘘　挿入曲

ショパン　《エチュード》　嬰ハ短調　作品10-4

甘美な作品でよく知られるショパンの作品のなかで、激しく激高する男性的なキャラクターが前面に押し出された作品です。右手と左手で交互に演奏される高速なパッセージ、遠く離れた和音への跳躍、フォルテとピアノのコントラストなど、さまざまな技巧が要求されています。

このような難しい技術的要素の陰で見落とされがちですが、音楽的に重要なのは、簡単に聴こえる和音の弾き方です。左右の手で均質な演奏をすることはもちろんですが、細かい音とゆったりした和音進行のバランスを上手に引き出せるか否かが、演奏の成否を決める重要な鍵となります。

（ピアニスト／菅野雅紀・東京藝術大学・武蔵野音楽大学講師）

You Tube動画公開中
（月刊少年マガジン　四月は君の嘘　挿入曲）で検索

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